

THE ZOOLOGIST:

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF

NATURAL HISTORY.

FOURTH SERIES.—VOL. IX.

EDITED BY

W. L. DISTANT.

LONDON:

WEST, NEWMAN, & CO., 54, HATTON GARDEN.

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO., LTD.

1905.



PREFACE.

THE most notable event to ornithologists during the past year has been the meeting of the fourth International Ornithological Congress, which was held in London last June. With that we may couple the interest aroused in the study of Dinosaurs by the presentation of a reproduction of the skeleton of *Diplodocus carnegii* to the British Museum.

N.C.
Our present volume exhibits no diminution in the number or value of its contributions, while it is a matter of congratulation to all concerned that few books are now published on the British fauna without at least some, and usually many, references to the pages of 'THE ZOOLOGIST.' This year several Orders have received considerable attention, and have been the subjects of some permanent contributions.

MAMMALIA.—Two new species of Gorals from British India have been described; the true position of *Mus rattus* and its British allies has been discussed by one who is doing much on the subject of our insular mammals; the valuable series of papers on the northern Seal and Whale industries have been continued, as well as a host of smaller contributions, which range from the disappearance of a local form of Squirrel in India to a peculiar osteological variety found in the domestic Cat at Yarmouth.

AVES.—Our well-known contributors have continued their county lists and bionomical observations. The birds of Wales have now received very full attention in these pages, and it is strange indeed that so much was hitherto unrecorded on the

subject; the list of rare visitants has been substantially augmented, and the truth again emphasized that in British ornithology alone new facts and observations still await the diligent field naturalist.

PISCES.—There has been this year a most welcome interest exhibited in relation to British fishes and rare piscine visitants. The most interesting event has been the reappearance of a species of Flying Fish in the estuary of the Thames, and the consequent publication in these pages of a paper containing a full *résumé* of our knowledge on the subject. It is, however, much to be desired that other yearly reports beyond that from Yarmouth should appear in 'THE ZOOLOGIST.'

As regards some other and more neglected Orders, we have reason to hope that promised attention will be devoted to them in our next volume.

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